

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

On July 1, 2005, (pursuant to SB 737, Statutes of 2005) the California Department of Corrections undertook a historic reorganization - the largest in state history. The reorganization was accompanied by a strategic plan and organizational structure developed to build the foundation for lasting change. The department's accomplishments in the first year represent critical building blocks to transform a broken system and set the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on a new road to reform.

It is a direction that includes a focus on safer working environments, greater and better service to crime victims, organizational effectiveness, a change in prison culture, use of enhanced agency-wide information technology, effective use of state resources and an increased role for rehabilitation. We have a renewed commitment to partnerships with national experts and community partners to validate rehabilitative and re-entry programs and to develop offender re-entry programs that have not been considered in the past.

With the reorganization, the California Department of Corrections added *Rehabilitation* to its title - a change that reflects a desire to move away from three decades in which the concept of rehabilitation was not a priority. The change reflects a shift in attitude that has the potential to improve public safety, save money and make it more likely that those who have committed crimes will chose to turn their lives around.

PRINCIPLES OF REFORM - "RESTORE, REFORM, REBUILD"

The guiding principles for reform:

- To end the causes and tragic effects of crime, violence and victimization in our communities through a collaborative effort;
- To improve public safety through evidence-based crime prevention and recidivism reduction strategies, and
- Build partnerships and on-going dialogue with the communities.

PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In order for rehabilitative efforts to work we have to reduce violence in prisons so rehabilitation programs can be successful. Concurrent efforts to reduce violence to make institutions conducive to rehabilitative success have been the primary focus of CDCR over the last year. The goal is to use evidence based programming to achieve the best level of public safety

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**GOAL: Improve the Safety and Security of Institutions**

- Safety Audits – Independent safety audits were conducted at each institution in 2005 to determine the specific safety needs.
- Gang Management - Developed ways to manage gang activities specific to the needs of institutions.
- Behavior Management Units - Modify recalcitrant inmate behavior; reduce the opportunity for them to re-offend and to provide non-disruptive inmates the ability to program without continuing disruption.

GOAL: To Make Changes to Prison Culture

- Implementation of Prison Rape Elimination Act – California has become a leader in applying the new national standard to eliminate rape in its institutions.
- Increased Inmate Visiting - Inmate visiting hours expansion helps to foster a sense of family and support for an inmate and provides incentive for appropriate in-custody behavior.

GOAL: To Create Gender Responsive Strategies Specific to the Needs of Female Inmates

- Created new programs to emphasize personal growth, accountability, self-reliance, education, life and workplace skills and maintaining family and community relations;
- Creation of 4,500 beds in community facilities where offenders can also receive substance abuse treatment, education, training and family reunification was funded in the Governor's 06/07 budget;
- Two key rehabilitation pilot programs were launched:
 - Enhanced parent-child visitation to enhance care-giving relationships;
 - Bonding mother with babies will allow 20 pregnant female offenders to bond and care for their baby for an extended period of time after birth in a specialized unit;
- Changes were made to the in-custody treatment and processing of female inmates with male correctional staff.

GOAL: Development of Comprehensive Recidivism Reduction Strategies

- Renewed emphasis on rehabilitative programs that have been neglected over the last decade;
- \$52 million in FY 06/07 to fund increased programming which will include Academic and Vocational Program Expansion, Life Skills Developments and offender Mentoring Outreach; and
- Sex Offender treatment programs have been funded for FY 06/07.

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**GOAL: Create More Education and Vocational Rehabilitative Program Opportunities**

- Renewed emphasis on vocational and educational training
- More than 4000 inmates are enrolled in college classes, a 33 percent increase over the last year.
- FY 06/07 added 19 new vocational programs for a total of 344 programs offered throughout the state.
- All educational curriculums have been certified by the California Department of Education during the past year.

GOAL: Create Innovative Re-Entry Programs

- Development of Community Facilities - This program is designed to transition parolees at the end of their sentence to secure facilities in the community to allow them to access services, treatment, and employment before they are released from prison back into the community. Acquired a tool to improve evidence based re-entry.
- SB 618 - A \$3 million program piloted in San Diego County. This is an innovative state/local partnership in which the local counties do comprehensive assessment and treatment planning when an offender is first arrested and is coupled with a comprehensive re-entry life plan for inmates upon their release.
 - This assessment and plan follows an inmate from his initial sentencing at the local level, through the process at the state level, and subsequent release to parole.

GOAL: Support Parole Programs that Enhance Public Safety

- Global Positioning Satellites (GPS) - A statewide pilot program to monitor and track the movement of the most dangerous sex offenders on parole has proved to be a powerful supervision tool. Since the launch of the pilot program in July 2005, this program has prevented additional sex crimes and new victims through the following:
 - 470 units currently are in use to monitor High Risk Sex Offenders;
 - An additional 500 units per year for the next four years are funded in Governor's budget;
 - So far, there have been 45 arrests for new crimes, and 98 for technical violations; and
 - In April 2006, the Department launched a pilot to track gang members in San Bernardino to see if GPS technology showed similar results.

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- Parole Pre-Release Program – Launched in May 2006, this innovative program creates new staffing to accommodate parole, pre-release needs as well as a new risk needs assessment tool to provide an evidence-based approach to release planning of inmates.

GOAL: CREATE POPULATION REDUCTION STRATEGY

Prison population has reached unprecedented levels. It is critical for CDCR to develop long and short term comprehensive housing strategies to accommodate space deficiencies and limited resources and deal with the overcrowding in institutions statewide.

“Right Prison, Right Mission”

- Places inmates in the housing and program location most appropriate to the security and medical/mental health treatment needs of the inmate
- Provides for an appropriate rehabilitative program to allow the inmate his best chance for success upon release

GOAL: Reform California’s Juvenile Justice System

- In 2004, Gov. Schwarzenegger’s administration signed an agreement to reform California’s juvenile justice system. This year, CDCR released its remedial plan calling for enhanced programming for juvenile offenders, smaller living unit size based on a therapeutic environment more conducive to rehabilitation of offenders, and increased educational/vocational opportunities for juvenile offenders.
- The Governor’s Budget included \$7.7 million in 2005/06 and \$80.3 million in 2006/07 to enhance treatment, services, and programs for juveniles under the jurisdiction of the Division of Juvenile Justice.

GOAL: Create Greater Organizational and Fiscal Accountability

- Development of performance measures for all our programs to quantify progress and set consistent standards for improvement is critical to the department’s long-term success.
- The goal is to use evidence based programming to achieve the best level of public safety. The department is developing and implementing pilot projects that are programs with a proven track record of reducing recidivism and enhancing public safety.
 - **COMSTAT** – Implementation of a proven business application to quantify performance measures. This program guides the department in gathering accurate and consistent data, identifying areas of concerns and developing solutions

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**GOAL: Support the Needs of Victims**

CDCR is dedicated to ensuring the rights of victims and survivors are enforced and that they have a meaningful voice within the state correctional system.

- Creation of an Assistant Secretary for Victim and Survivor Rights;
 - California is the only state in the nation to have a position at this level and only the 7th to have a victims rights Advocacy Council.
- The CDCR surpassed \$100 million in restitution collected from offenders and parolees since 1992. CDCR currently collects more than \$1.3 million a month from offenders to give back to victims.

Next Steps**Sex Offender Task Force:**

This Task Force was created by an Executive Order signed by Gov. Schwarzenegger on May 15, 2006 to look at the difficult issue of housing sex offenders back in the community when released from prison by mandate of law. The Task Force will complete its review and make final recommendations to the Governor on how to improve policy and legislation to more effectively manage dangerous group of parolees in the best interests of public safety. The Task Force will provide its recommendations to the Governor by August 15, 2006.

“Right Prison Right Mission” Strategy

The CDCR will continue its efforts to implement this important program to help reduce overcrowding. This long-term strategy, initiated in 2005, will take several years to fully implement as the department struggles to augment facility space, resources and seek budgetary funding.

Augment Community Resources

The CDCR will continue to seek new and innovative ways to work with local jurisdictions to augment resources and create partnerships to enhance our mutual goals of protecting the public safety.

Inmate Healthcare

CDCR continues to improve the delivery of inmate medical services and with the oversight of the court-appointed receiver.